

House File 562 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 562

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the skilled workforce shortage tuition grant
2 program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 261.130, subsections 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8,
2 Code 2019, are amended to read as follows:

3 1. A skilled workforce shortage tuition grant may be awarded
4 to any resident of Iowa who is admitted and in attendance
5 as a full-time or part-time student in a career-technical or
6 career option program to pursue ~~an associate's degree or other~~
7 ~~training at a community college~~ any degree or other training
8 at a postsecondary educational institution in the state, and
9 who establishes financial need. For purposes of this section,
10 "career-technical or career option program" includes a mental
11 health training program.

12 2. Skilled workforce shortage tuition grants shall be
13 awarded only to students pursuing a career-technical or career
14 option program in an industry identified as having a shortage
15 of skilled workers by a ~~community college~~ postsecondary
16 educational institution after conducting a regional skills gap
17 analysis or by the department of workforce development in the
18 department's most recent quarterly report pursuant to section
19 84A.6, subsection 4.

20 4. All classes identified by the ~~community college~~
21 postsecondary educational institution as required for
22 completion of the student's approved career-technical or
23 career option program shall be considered a part of the
24 student's career-technical or career option program for
25 the purpose of determining the student's eligibility for a
26 grant. Notwithstanding [subsection 5](#), if a student is making
27 satisfactory academic progress but the student cannot complete
28 a career-technical or career option program in the time frame
29 allowed for a student to receive a skilled workforce shortage
30 tuition grant as provided in [subsection 5](#) because additional
31 classes are required to complete the program, the student may
32 continue to receive a skilled workforce shortage tuition grant
33 for not more than one additional enrollment period.

34 6. A skilled workforce shortage tuition grant shall be
35 awarded on an annual basis, requiring reapplication by the

1 student for each year. Payments under the grant shall be
 2 allocated equally among the semesters or quarters of the year
 3 upon certification by the ~~community-college~~ postsecondary
 4 educational institution that the student is in full-time or
 5 part-time attendance in a career-technical or career option
 6 program consistent with the requirements of this section. If
 7 the student discontinues attendance before the end of any term
 8 after receiving payment of the grant, the entire amount of any
 9 refund due that student, up to the amount of any payments made
 10 under the annual grant, shall be paid by the ~~community-college~~
 11 postsecondary educational institution to the state.

12 8. The commission shall administer this program and shall:

13 a. Provide application forms for distribution to students
 14 by Iowa high schools and ~~community-colleges~~ postsecondary
 15 educational institutions.

16 b. Adopt rules for approving career-technical, ~~or~~ career
 17 option programs in industries identified by the department of
 18 workforce development pursuant to section 84A.6, subsection 4;
 19 determining financial need; defining residence for the purposes
 20 of this section; processing and approving applications for
 21 grants; and determining priority for grants.

22 c. Approve and award grants on an annual basis.

23 d. Make an annual report to the governor and general
 24 assembly. The report shall include the number of students
 25 receiving assistance and the industries identified by the
 26 ~~community-colleges~~ postsecondary educational institutions and
 27 by the department of workforce development pursuant to section
 28 84A.6, subsection 4, for which students were admitted to a
 29 career-technical or career option program.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill relates to the skilled workforce shortage tuition
 34 grant program.

35 Currently, the Iowa workforce shortage tuition grant program

1 provides tuition grants to students who establish a financial
2 need and who are pursuing an associate's degree or other
3 training in a career-technical or career option program at a
4 community college in the state in an industry identified as
5 having a shortage of skilled workers by a community college
6 or by the department of workforce development. The grant is
7 renewable for two years.

8 The bill expands current law to provide such tuition grants
9 to Iowa students with a financial need who are pursuing any
10 degree or other training in a career-technical or career option
11 program at a postsecondary educational institution, including
12 a mental health training program, in an industry identified
13 as having a shortage of skilled workers by a postsecondary
14 institution in this state or by the department of workforce
15 development.